

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

Alan Moore, Chair
Ron Newman, Vice Chair
Greg Palmer, Secretary

Peter Coyle
Jim Gallagher
Phil Goff

Dereck Mangus

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor
Police Dept. (vacant)
(vacant)
Dept. of Public Works (vacant)
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

Bob Trane, Board of Aldermen
Traffic and Parking Dept.

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, November 15, 2005, City Hall

ATTENDEES Alan, Ron, Greg, Peter, Phil, Steve
 Guest: Lisa Lepore, SPCD

1. Minutes - Alan called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. The October meeting minutes were approved.

2. Guest - Lisa Lepore, Director of Infrastructure and Transportation in SPCD, was introduced. She is a cyclist who most recently was working in Del Mar (north of San Diego), Calif.

3. Tour de Somerville - For the first time in 13 years, the Tour was rained out on the ride day (Sat. 13), and it was held the next day (Sunday 14). About 20 people showed up, 2/3 less than the usual turnout. Two Somerville Police provided escort, and Redbones served up refreshments at Foss Park, a new halfway break point for the ride. The ride lasted 3 hours, one hour less than in previous years, most likely due to the smaller group, and a slightly shorter route- we did not ride all the way over to Assembly Square/Draw 7 Park, for example. Greg offered to send a picture to the Somerville Journal. Several suggestions for next year were offered: make the Tour 3 hours or less; team up with Medford for a joint ride, similar to the joint Historical Tour down with Cambridge last Spring; make sure there are bathrooms at the break point.

4. Comprehensive Issues - Based on the list distributed to the Committee by Alan, the following were identified as a starter priority list of issues to concentrate on:

- continue to develop a city bicycle map
- improve public communication via web, print, video, radio; look to partner with agencies and groups
- develop a safe routes to schools program that addresses bike parking and education; work with groups such as the annual Kiwanis rodeo
- create unique SBC web site
- actively support and advocate for local paths and connections to regional path networks, and collaborate with agencies, organizations, and other bicycle committees.

The issues discussion will be continued at the next Committee meeting.

5. Bicycle parking - Draft conditions for the One Davis Square development from the city Planning Board include bicycle parking inside and out, but not showers. Also, the parking ordinance is due to be heard in the aldermen's Legislative Matters Committee in November. Steve will be at the meeting, and suggested that SBC members could attend as well to lend support.

6. Abandoned bicycles/MBTA - Greg reported that at the recent MBTA Bikes and Transit Advisory Committee meeting, it was announced that the agency's proposed abandoned bicycle policy had been approved. Tags for identifying bikes in racks at stations will be printed in the next 30 days. Left unresolved is what happens to bikes once they are removed. Erik Sheier of the T said at that meeting that he was going to contact Bikes Not Bombs about taking abandoned bikes.

Some suggestions for dealing with bikes removed from the Davis Red Line Station: from Steve- have someone meet T personnel when they cut bikes off and store them in the city; get local bike shops to recycle/cannibalize the bikes. Greg will talk to Tyler Oulton of Paramount Bike Repair to see if he's interested in any of the 13 bikes currently identified as abandoned down at Davis. Greg will also draft a letter to the T General Manager thanking the agency for moving ahead on this new policy, and mention the unresolved issue of disposal.

7. Assembly Square Main Street - A MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act) filing has been made for a proposed development for buildings along a new Main Street at Assembly Square. Steve asked for comments to be sent to him.

8. On road bicycle accommodations - Steve passed out his "Alternative Bike Lane Evaluation Guide". Discussion will resume at the November meeting.

9. City Report - Steve Winslow

Steve reported that the Beacon Street plans are at 75%. No word on when we can review them, or when a public hearing will be scheduled.

10. Announcements - The SBC has signed up for a May, 2006 talk show slot at SCAT on the program "Talking About Somerville". The panel format can include video. The show needs to be prepared by April, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 15, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary